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കേരള ഗസറ്റ്
KERALA GAZETTE
അസാധാരണം
EXTRAORDINARY

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GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Agriculture (EB) Department.

ERRATA

G.O. (P) No. 02/2026/Agri. *Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 23rd February, 2026*

S. R. O. No. 255/2026

In the notification issued under G.O.(P) No. 15/2025/Agri. dated 12th September, 2025 and published as S.R.O. No. 1051/2025 in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No. 3293 dated 16th September, 2025 regarding the amendment to the Special Rules for the Kerala Soil Conservation Service, 2008, the following corrections/modifications are made,

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Sl. No.	*Rule Position*	*Existing provision*	*Revised Provision*
1	Rule 1, sub rule (1)	These rules may be called the Special Rules for the Kerala Soil Conservation Service (Amendment) Rules, 2025.	These rules may be called the Kerala Soil Survey and Soil Conservation Service (Amendment) Rules, 2025
2	Rule 1**,** sub-rule (2)	They shall come into force w.e.f. 01-04-2023	They shall come into force at once except in the case of (i) Category 4 of Branch I - Soil Conservation, in whose case it shall be deemed to have come into force with effect from 01.04.2023; and (ii) Category 2 of Branch 11- Soil Survey, in whose case it shall be deemed to have come into force with effect from 17.11.2015.
3	Rule 2	Amendment of the Rules:- In the Kerala Soil Conservation Service Rules, 2008	Amendment of the Rules:- In the Special Rules for the Kerala Soil Conservation Service, 2008
4	Rule 2, sub rule (1)	Category 2 Principal Soil Chemist/Joint Director (Soil Survey)	Category 2 Joint Director (Soil Survey) / Principal Soil Chemist
5	Rule 2, sub rule (2) clause (i)	for Note:- the following shall be substituted, namely:	for the existing Note:- **(**1**),** the following shall be substituted
6	Rule 2, sub rule (2) clause (i), Note:- (1)	"Note:- (1) A ratio of 5:2:1 shall be maintained between (a) Agriculture graduates or its equivalent recruited direct as Soil Conservation Officer (b) Engineering Graduates recruited directly as Assistant Engineer (Soil Conservation) and (c) Overseer/ Ist Grade Draftsman appointed by transfer to the cadre of Assistant Engineer (Soil Conservation) and Overseer/ 1st Grade Draftsman appointed by transfer to the cadre of Soil Conservation Officer in the Kerala Soil Conservation Subordinate Service Rules.	"Note:- (1) A ratio of 5:2:1 shall be maintained among the categories specified below, with reference to the total sanctioned cadre strength of twenty-one posts. Accordingly, the cadre shall consist of thirteen posts in category (a) Agriculture Graduates or its equivalent recruited directly as Soil Conservation Officer; five posts in category (b) Engineering Graduates recruited directly as Assistant Engineer (Soil Conservation); and three posts in category (c) Overseer/1st Grade Draftsman in the Kerala Soil Conservation Subordinate Service, appointed by transfer to the cadre of Assistant Engineer (Soil Conservation) and Overseer/1st Grade Draftsman in the Kerala Soil Conservation Subordinate Service appointed by transfer to the cadre of Soil Conservation Officer. The ratio shall be applied exclusively to the sanctioned cadre strength and

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If sufficient number of persons are not available in one category for appointment by promotion in the above ratio, such vacancies shall also be filled up in the manner as given below:-

Case-1: In the absence of qualified persons in category (a), such vacancy shall be filled by persons from (b) and (c) in the ratio of 2:1. For that purpose, a block of every 3 vacancies shall be filled up in the following order, namely:-

1st vacancy - Category (b)
2nd vacancy - Category (c)
3rd vacancy - Category (b)

Case-2: In the absence of qualified persons in category (b), such vacancy shall be filled by persons from (a) and (c) in the ratio of 5:1. For that purpose, a block of every 6 vacancies shall be filled up in the following order, namely:-

1st vacancy - Category (a)
2nd vacancy - Category (a)
3rd vacancy - Category (a)
4th vacancy - Category (c)
5th vacancy - Category (a)
6th vacancy - Category (a)

Case-3: In the absence of qualified persons in category (c), such vacancy shall be filled by persons from (a) and (b) in the ratio of 5:2. For that purpose, a block of every 7 vacancies shall be filled up in the following order, namely:-

1st vacancy - Category (a)

shall not be applied to vacancies arising from time to time. Vacancies shall be filled only within the apportioned cadre strength and, where no eligible person is available in a particular category, such vacancy shall be filled from other categories without disturbing the ratio fixed for the cadre strength, in the manner prescribed hereunder:

Case 1: In the absence of qualified persons in category (a) such **v**acancy shall be filled by persons from category(b) and category(c) in the ratio 2:1. For that purpose, a block of every 3 vacancies shall be filled up in the following order namely: -

1st vacancy - Category (b)
2nd vacancy - Category(c)
3rd vacancy - Category (b)

Case 2: In the absence of qualified persons in Category (b), such vacancy shall be filled by persons from category (a) and category (c) in the ratio of 5:1. For that purpose, a block of every 6 vacancies shall be filled up in the following order, namely: -

1st vacancy - Category (a)
2nd vacancy - Category(a)
3rd vacancy - Category(a)
4th vacancy - Category (c)
5th vacancy - Category (a)
6th vacancy - Category (b)

Case 3: In the absence of qualified persons in category (c), such vacancy shall be filled by persons from category(a) and category(b) in the ratio of 5:2. For that purpose, a block of every 7 vacancies shall be filled up in the following order, namely: -

1st vacancy - Category (a)
2nd vacancy - Category (a)
3rd vacancy - Category (b)
4th vacancy - Category (a)
5th vacancy - Category (a)
6th vacancy - Category (b)

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		2nd vacancy - Category (a) 3rd vacancy - Category (b) 4th vacancy - Category (a) 5th vacancy - Category (a) 6th vacancy - Category (b) 7th vacancy - Category (a) In the absence of qualified persons in a category against their respective turn under Case 1, 2 and 3 above, the vacancy shall be filled by Direct Recruitment."	7tth vacancy - Category (a) In the absence of qualified persons in a category against their respective turn under case 1, 2, 3 above, the vacancy shall be filled by Direct recruitment. Direct recruitment shall be resorted to only when the vacancy cannot be filled, for want of qualified persons, either in the original category or under the redistribution procedure specified in Cases 1, 2 and 3 above".
7	Rule 2, sub rule (2) clause (ii), category 2	Principal Soil Chemist/Joint Director (Soil Survey)	Joint Director (Soil Survey) / Principal Soil Chemist
8	Rule 2, sub rule (3) clause (i)	under the heading, BRANCH I-SOIL CONSERVATION for ‘Category 4’ the following shall be substituted	under the heading, BRANCH I-SOIL CONSERVATION for ‘Category 4’ and the existing entries against it, the following shall be substituted.
9	Rule 2, sub rule (3) clause (i) Category 4	Note (c) equivalent qualification and should have a minimum service of three years in that cadre.	Note (c) equivalent qualification, should have a minimum service of three years in that cadre.
		under the heading, BRANCH I-SOIL CONSERVATION for ‘Category 4’ By Direct Recruitment I (a) (i) Degree in Agriculture.	A Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture from a University recognised by UGC/ICAR or National Institute established by the Government of India or Institution established by the Government of Kerala.
		I (a) (ii) M.Sc in Agronomy or Soil Science.	M.Sc in Agronomy or Soil Science from a University recognised by UGC/ICAR or National Institute established by the Government of India or Institution established by the Government of Kerala.
		I (b) (i) Degree in Agricultural Engineering	A Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Engineering from a University recognised by

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			UGC/ICAR/AICTE or National Institute established by the Government of India or Institution established by the Government of Kerala.
		I (b) (ii) M.Sc/M.Tech Degree in any branch of Agricultural Engineering.	M.Sc/M.Tech Degree in any branch of Agricultural Engineering from a University recognised by UGC/ICAR/AICTE or National Institute established by the Government of India or Institution established by the Government of Kerala.
10	Rule 2, sub rule (3) clause (ii)	Category 1 By Direct Recruitment (i) Degree in agriculture	A Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture from a University recognised by UGC/ICAR or National Institute established by the Government of India or Institution established by the Government of Kerala.
		(ii) M.Sc. Agriculture with specialization in Soil Science or Soil Survey	M.Sc. in Agriculture with specialization in Soil Science or Soil Survey from a University recognised by UGC/ICAR or National Institute established by the Government of India or Institution established by the Government of Kerala.
11	Rule 2, sub rule (3) clause (ii)	Category 2 Principal Soil Chemist/Joint Director (Soil Survey)	Category 2 Joint Director (Soil Survey) / Principal Soil Chemist
		Category 2 - By Direct Recruitment (i) Degree in agriculture	A Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture from a University recognised by UGC/ICAR or National Institute established by the Government of India or Institution established by the Government of Kerala.
		(ii) M.Sc. Agriculture with specialization in Soil Science or Soil Survey	M.Sc. in Agriculture with specialization in Soil Science or Soil Survey from a University recognised by UGC/ICAR or National Institute established by the Government of India or Institution established by the Government of Kerala.
		Category 2 - By Direct Recruitment (iv) Experience in Soil Survey/Remote sensing for 5 years (minimum) in a Government Department/ Institution recognized by the Government of Kerala after attaining the qualification in item (i) above	Experience for a minimum period of 5 years in Soil Survey/Remote sensing after acquiring M.Sc obtained from Central or State Government department or from an Institution recognized by the Government of Kerala.

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Category 3- By Direct Recruitment (i) Degree in Agriculture	A Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture from a University recognised by UGC/ICAR or National Institute established by the Government of India or Institution established by the Government of Kerala.
Category 3- By Direct Recruitment (ii) M.Sc. in Agriculture with specialization in Soil Science or Soil Survey	M.Sc. in Agriculture with specialization in Soil Science or Soil Survey from a University recognised by UGC/ICAR or National Institute established by the Government of India or Institution established by the Government of Kerala.
Category 3- By Direct Recruitment (iii) Experience in Soil Survey for a period of 5 years after attaining the qualification mentioned in item (ii) above.	Experience for a minimum period of 5 years in Soil Survey after acquiring M.Sc obtained from central or State Government department or from an Institution recognized by the Government of Kerala.
Category 4-By Direct Recruitment (i) Degree in Agriculture	A Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture from a University recognised by UGC/ICAR or National Institute established by the Government of India or Institution established by the Government of Kerala.
Category 4-By Direct Recruitment (ii) M.Sc. in Agriculture with specialization in Soil Science or Soil Survey	M.Sc. in Agriculture with specialization in Soil Science or Soil Survey from a University recognised by UGC/ICAR or National Institute established by the Government of India or Institution established by the Government of Kerala.
Category 4-By Direct Recruitment (iii) Experience in Soil Survey or Soil Analytical work for a minimum period of 5 years.	Experience for a minimum period of 5 years in Soil Survey or Soil Analytical work after acquiring M.Sc obtained from Central or State Government Department or from an Institution recognized by the Government of Kerala.
Category 5-By Direct Recruitment (i) Degree in Agriculture	A Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture from a University recognised by UGC/ICAR or National Institute established by the Government of India or Institution established by the Government of Kerala.

Rule 2, sub rule (4) , for the existing entries, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

Existing Provision	*Revised Provision*
"1. Additional Director (Soil 45	1. Additional Director (Soil 46

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Conservation)/Joint Director (Soil Conservation)/Deputy Director (Soil Conservation).		Conservation)/Joint Director (Soil Conservation)/Deputy Director (Soil Conservation)	
2. Assistant Director (Soil Conservation)/ District Soil Conservation Officer.	35	2. Assistant Director (Soil Conservation)/ District Soil Conservation Officer.	36
3. Soil Conservation Officer/ Assistant Engineer(Soil Conservation)	35”	3. Soil Conservation Officer/ Assistant Engineer(Soil Conservation)	36
“1. Additional Director (Soil Survey)/Principal Soil Chemist/Joint Director (Soil Survey)/Deputy Director (Soil Survey)	45	1. Additional Director (Soil Survey)/Joint Director (Soil Survey)/Principal Soil Chemist/Deputy Director (Soil Survey)	46
2. Assistant Director (Soil Survey)/ Senior Chemist	35	2. Assistant Director (Soil Survey)/ Senior Chemist	36
3. Soil Survey Officer/ Research Assistant/ Cartographer /Technical Assistant	35”	3. Soil Survey Officer/ Research Assistant/ Cartographer /Technical Assistant	36

Rule 2, sub rule (5), the following shall be substituted, namely:-

Existing Provision	*Revised Provision*
" 6. *Appointing Authority* - The Appointing Authority in respect of categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Branch I and categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Branch II shall be the Government and the Director of Soil Survey and Soil Conservation shall be the appointing authority in respect of all other categories of Branch I and Branch II."	6. *Appointing Authority* - The Appointing Authority in respect of categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Branch I and categories 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Branch II shall be the Government and the Director of Soil Survey and Soil Conservation shall be the appointing authority in respect of all other categories of Branch I and Branch II.

By order of the Governor,

DR B ASHOK I A S

Principal Secretary &

Agricultural Production Commissioner

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Explanatory Note

(This does not form part of the notification, but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

The Special Rules for the Kerala Soil Conservation Service, 2008, were issued as per G.O.(P) No.78/2008/AD dated 24th April 2008 and published as S.R.O. No.434/2008 in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No.866 dated 3rd May 2008. These Rules laid down the method of appointment and service conditions for various categories, including Category 4 — Assistant Director of Soil Conservation/District Soil Conservation Officer in Branch I (Soil Conservation), with promotions from feeder categories in the ratio 5:2:1. In order to address administrative gaps, amendments were notified vide G.O.(P) No.15/2025/Agri dated 12th September 2025 and published as S.R.O. No.1051/2025 in the Kerala Gazette Extraordinary No.3293 dated 16th September 2025.

The Government amended Note (1) with retrospective effect as clarified vide Letter No.EB1/19/2020/Agri dated 01-04-2023. Further, the post of Principal Soil Chemist/Joint Director in Branch II (Soil Survey), created vide G.O.(Ms) No.211/2015/AD dated 17th November 2015, which had not been incorporated in the Special Rules, was formally included through this amendment. Further amendments have now been issued based on the suggestions of the Subject Committee in its meeting held on 22nd January 2026 and the comments received from the Kerala Public Service Commission vide their letter dated 8th January 2026. These changes ensure that the Special Rules reflect correct institutional standards for educational qualifications and incorporate the updated upper age limits (raised from 35 to 36 and 45 to 46) as mandated by the Kerala Public Services (Raising of Upper Age Limit for Appointment) Rules, 2014. Moreover, it has been clarified that the 5:2:1 recruitment ratio for Category 4 must be maintained with reference to the total sanctioned cadre strength of twenty-one posts rather than individual vacancies, thereby ensuring administrative clarity and avoiding legal inconsistency.

The Notification is intended to achieve the above object.

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